

Project Update

Demolition to begin soon for new parking garage

Early next year, work on the first part of the Atlantic/Central expansion will begin with construction of the new, five-story employee parking garage. The new garage will be on recently acquired property south of Royal Brougham Way between Sixth Avenue South and the E-3 Busway, and will serve Atlantic, Central, and Ryerson bases. (Please see diagram on back.) This places the garage close to operations for all three bases and leaves Metro Transit with the most land possible for additional buildings south of the garage. The project team has developed a plan to minimize disruption to service and will continue talking with base leadership and employees about project planning and schedules. Initial construction will begin on newly acquired properties so as to reduce the impact on existing base functions. By building the parking garage first, Metro is helping vacate space for construction and renovation of the Atlantic/Central bases as well.

Metro has submitted its Master Use Permit and initial building applications to the City of Seattle while completing

acquisition of the properties along Sixth Avenue South. The project team also has applied for a street vacation to take possession of the Atlantic Street cul-de-sac next to the current operations building. Relocation of businesses affected by the project is currently under way. Metro expects to begin demolition of most of the existing buildings on the garage site in early 2003, with the new garage opening in mid-2004.

The “Fourth Base”

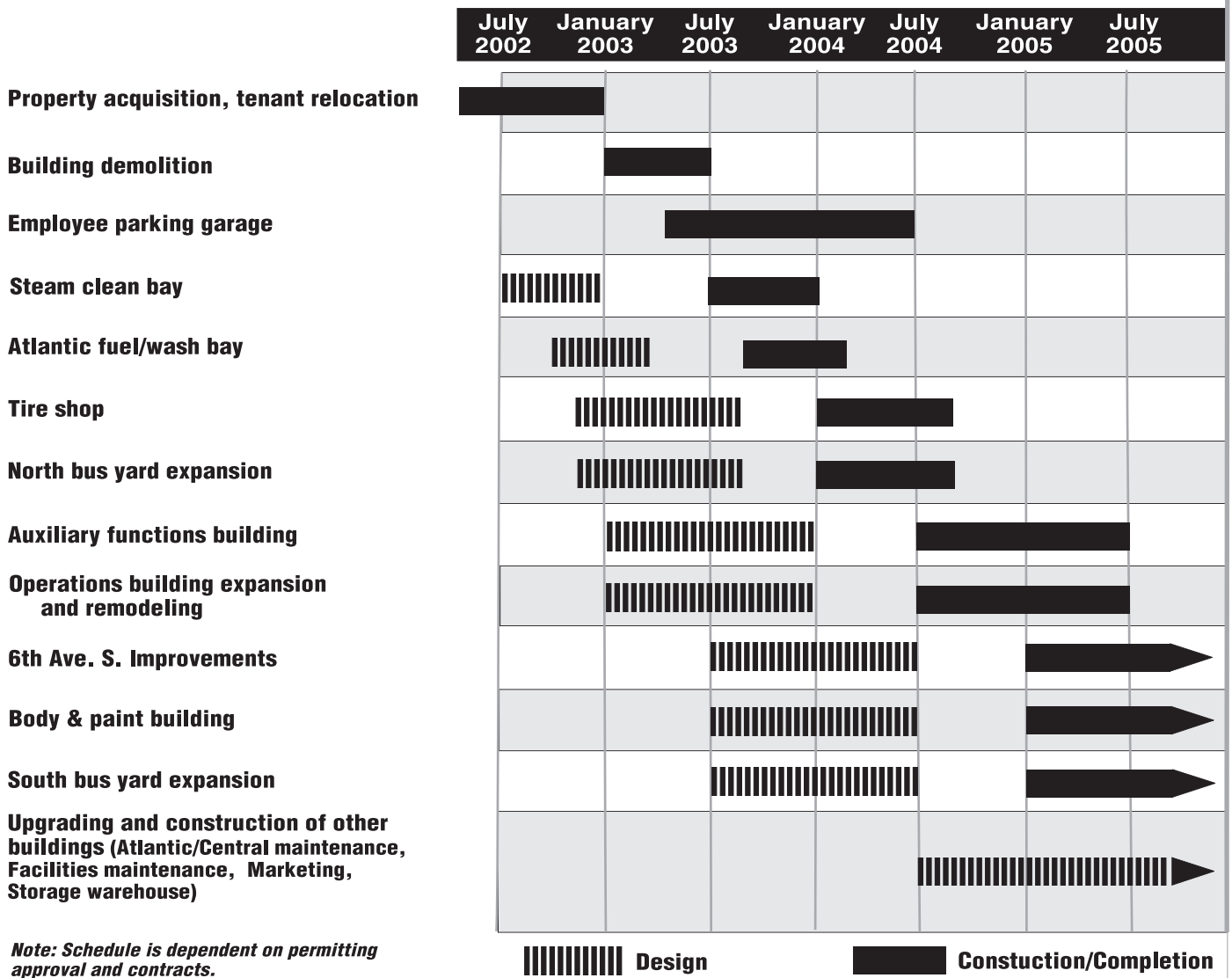
Originally, plans called for building an independent “Fourth Base” south of Atlantic/Central. This is no longer part of the present base expansion plan. Expansion or creation of any future new bases will be part of a separate planning effort that will determine such needs throughout the county.

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Ryerson Base and SR-519 Project Update

The base expansion is beginning at the same time as the Washington State DOT's SR-519 construction project, with significant impacts for Metro Transit service. The SR-519 project is on schedule, and should be completed in late 2004. At that time, 50 parking spaces for coaches will be added to Ryerson Base on the site of the former employee parking lot; Metro will also be grading and paving sections of the bus yard, improving storm drainage, and adding additional storm-drainage piping and additional lighting. Buses will be moved from Ryerson's north yard in 2004 to allow WSDOT to do demolition on the existing eastbound on-ramp to I-90/I-5. The state's project is having a dramatic impact on the base, but the continued close coordination between Metro, WSDOT, and Sound Transit is easing that impact considerably.

Project Design and Construction Timeline



Construction and renovation of base buildings

The expansion of the Atlantic/Central base also includes the addition and renovation of several new buildings. Both the north and south bus yards will be expanded to accommodate 185 new buses—a 50 percent increase over current base capacity. Several new maintenance buildings will be added, and most existing structures will be remodeled. On the west side of Sixth Avenue South,

some new structures will be added, including a new building for Transit Police and other auxiliary functions. (For more details, please see diagram above.)

Future information

Project brochures and updates will be mailed to those on our community mailing list. The project Web site, www.metrokc.gov/kcdot/alts/basepgm/, also lists general updates, environmental review information, documents related to the project, and other items of general interest.

If you have additional questions or want to get on the project mailing list, contact Patrick Duhon in Transportation Community Relations at (206) 263-3424, or by email at patrick.duhon@metrokc.gov.

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